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The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities be authorized to meet in open session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., to receive testimony on nuclear nonproliferation programs at the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program and the Proliferation Security Initiative at the Department of Defense in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2008 and the future years defense program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces be authorized to meet in open and closed session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at 3 p.m. to receive testimony on Ballistic Missile Defense Programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2008 and the future years defense program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Matt Castillo and Patrick Fields of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today's session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Lindy Hawkins, an intern in my office, and Clarita Mrena, a detailee with the Aging Committee, be accorded the privilege of the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent the privilege of the floor be granted to Eleanore Edson, a fellow in the office of Senator CLINTON, during today's session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Melanie Roberts, a fellow in Senator BINGAMAN's office, be granted the privileges of the floor for the pendency of S. 5 and S. 30.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, there is an appointment at the desk.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, and as further amended by Public Law 107-228, appoints the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Dr. Don H. Argue, of Washington, (for a term of May 15, 2007–May 14, 2009).

COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL STRATEGY TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN AFRICA

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 103, S. Res. 76.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 76) calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy in Africa to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace in eastern Chad, the Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to; the title amendment be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 840) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To urge the Government of the Central African Republic to address human rights abuses in the northwestern region of that country)

On page 5, after line 25, insert the following:

(6) urges the Government of the Central African Republic—

(A) to engage in constructive and inclusive dialogue with rebels in the northwestern region of the country;

(B) to hold accountable security forces engaging in human rights violations; and

(C) to strengthen government services in order to meet the needs of affected populations;

On page 6, line 1, strike “(6)” and insert “(7)”.

On page 6, lines 1 and 2, strike “advocate for the appointment of” and insert “urge the United Nations Security Council to appoint”.

On page 6, line 8, strike “(7)” and insert “(8)”.

On page 6, line 10, insert “United Nations” after “advance”.

On page 6, line 11, insert “and northern Central African Republic” after “Chad”.

On page 6, line 13, strike “(8)” and insert “(9)”.

On page 6, line 15, insert “and northern Central African Republic” after “Chad”.

On page 7, line 24 strike “(9)” and insert “(10)”.

The amendment (No. 841) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: “Calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy in Africa to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace in eastern Chad, northern Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan.”

The resolution (S. Res. 76), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 76

Whereas armed groups have been moving freely between Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic, committing murder and engaging in banditry, forced recruitment of soldiers, and gender-based violence;

Whereas these and other crimes are contributing to insecurity and instability throughout the region, exacerbating the humanitarian crises in these countries and obstructing efforts to end violence in the Darfur region of Sudan and adjacent areas;

Whereas on January 5, 2007, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that crossborder attacks by alleged Arab militias from Sudan and related intercommunal ethnic hostilities in eastern Chad had resulted in the displacement of an estimated 20,000 people from Chad during the previous 2 weeks and posed a direct threat to camps housing refugees from Sudan;

Whereas these new internally displaced Chadians have strained the resources of 12 UNHCR-run camps in eastern Chad that are already serving more than 100,000 internally displaced Chadians and 230,000 refugees from Darfur and providing humanitarian support and protection to more than 46,000 refugees from the Central African Republic in southern Chad;

Whereas Chadian gendarmes responsible for providing security in and around the 12 UNHCR-run camps in eastern Chad are too few in number, too poorly equipped, and too besieged by Chadian rebel actions to carry out critical protection efforts sufficiently;

Whereas on January 16, 2007, the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for the Central African Republic reported that waves of violence across the north have left more than 1,000,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 150,000 who are internally displaced, while some 80,000 have fled to neighboring Chad or Cameroon;

Whereas in a Presidential Statement issued on January 16, 2007 (S/PRST/2007/2), the United Nations Security Council reiterated its “concern about the continuing instability along the borders between the Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic and about the threat which this poses to the safety of the civilian population and the conduct of humanitarian operations” and requested “that the Secretary-General deploy as soon as possible an advance mission to Chad and the Central African Republic, in consultation with their Governments”;

Whereas the Presidential Statement acknowledged “the position taken by the Central African and Chadian authorities in favor in principle of such a presence and looks forward to their continued engagement in preparing for it”;

Whereas a December 22, 2006, report of the United Nations Secretary-General (S/2006/